

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /130 W

----- 044618

R 241040Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 752

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 3381

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SW

SUBJECT: FINAL ELECTIONS RESULTS - NOW WHAT?

SUMMARY: FINAL OFFICIAL RETURNS CONFIRM 175-175 STALEMATE
IN NEW RIKSDAG AND SHOWS SOCIALIST BLOC BEAT OUT BOURGEOIS
GROUP BY ONLY 3600 VOTES OUT OF FIVE MILLION. PALME CHARTS
POLITICAL COURSE FOR NEAR FUTURE, ASSIGNING HIMSELF THE
EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TASK OF CHIVYING ENOUGH SUPPORT FROM
ONE OR MORE BOURGEOIS PARTIES TO GET KEY LEGISLATION PASSED.
PRESUMABLY PALME HOPES TO ROCK ALONG IN THIS FASHION UNTIL
NEW ELECTIONS BECOME OPPORTUNE - OR UNAVOIDABLE. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. FOLLOWING ARE FINAL OFFICIAL RETURNS OF SEPT. 16
ELECTIONS:

PARTY	TOTAL VOTE	P/C	RIKSDAG SEATS
MODERATE	737,584	14.29 (PLUS 2.8)	51 (PLUS 10)
CENTER	1,295,246	25.10 (PLUS 5.2)	90 (PLUS 19)
LIBERAL	486,028	9.41 (-6.8)	34 (-24)

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SOCIAL DEM. 2,247,727 43.55 (-1.7) 156 (-7)

LEFT COMMUNIST PARTY (VPK)	274,929	5.32	(PLUS 0.5 19 (PLUS 2)
SWEDISH COMMUNIST	18,923	0.36	(-0.1) 0
CHRISTIAN DEMO- CRITIC RALLY	90,388	1.75	(-0.1) 0
KFML (R)	8,014	0.15	0

2. IN TOTAL POPULAR VOTE SOCIALIST BLOC (SOCDEMS PLUS VPK) POSSED 2,522,656 VOTES OR 48.87 P/C AS AGAINST 2,518,858 OR 48.80P/C FOR BOURGEOIS BLOC (MODERATE -CENTER-LIBERAL), A DIFFERENCE OF 3,698 VOTES FOR .07 P/C. DIVISION OF RIKSDAG SEATS IS OFFICIALLY 175-175. VOTER PARTICIPATION WAS A SPECTACULARLY HIGH 91 P/C OF REGISTERED VOTERS, AS COMPARED TO 88.1 P/C IN 1970 ELECTIONS.

3. SOCDEM PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET FRIDAY TO TAKE STOCK OF SITUATION AFTER FINAL RETURNS WERE IN. PRIMIN PALME ANNOUNCED AFTERWARD THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN IN OFFICE, WOULD ATTEMPT TO ORGAINZE NEW RIKSDAG AND WOULD ATTEMPT TO GOVERN BY PUTTING FORWARD A A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM WHICH WOULD ATTRACT SUPPORT OF ONE OR MORE BOURGEOIS PARTIES ON AN ISSUE-BY-ISSUE BASIS.

4. PALEM SAID GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT, AS MATTER OF POLICY, AIM AT BRING ABOUT NEW ELECTIONS AT SUITABLE TIME BUT HE DID NOT RULE OUT THAT NEW ELECTIONS MIGHT BECOME INEVITABLE IF RIKSDAG BECOMES DEADLOCKED. HE REJECTED AS "DUMB" CENTER LEADERS FALLDIN'S DEMAND THAT SOCDEMS FORM OPEN COALITION WITH VPK, DESCRIBING VPK AS "OUR OPPONENTS." PALME ALSO SAID HE WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESIGN IF, AFTER A 175-175 TIE VOTE ON AN "IMPORTANT QUESTION," HIS GOVERNMENT IS DEFEATED BY LOTTERY IN NEW RIKSDAG. END UNCLASSIFIED.

COMMENT: PALME'S OUTLINE OF SOCIDEM TACTICS FOR MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT IN SITUATION OF POLITICAL STALEMATE COMES DOWN ESSENTIALLY TO A "PLAY IT BY EAR" POLICY. SOCDEMS WILL DRAW UP A LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TAILORED, THEY HOPE, TO DRAW LIBERAL OR CENTER SUPPORT ON KEY ISSUES. THEY HOPE TO ROCK ALONG IN THIS FASHION FOR AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDEFINATE PERIOD, KEEPING OPEN OPTIONS TO BID FOR A COALITION (PRESUMABLY WITH LIBERALS) OR TO FORCE NEW ELECTIONS IF SUCH SHOULD APPEAR TO BE OPPORTUNE OR UNAVOIDABLE. ALTHOUGH PALME TALKS BRAVELY ABOUT DRAWING "BROAD PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT" FOR HIS PROGRAMS, HE PROBABLY CONCEDES PRIVATELY THAT NEW ELECTIONS SOMETIME IN 1974 ARE ALL BUT INEVITABLE. MOOD OF BOURGEOIS PARTY LEADERS IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF ELCTIONS IS TO DRIVE

PALME TO THE WALL AND FORCE NEW ELECTIONS ASAP IN 1974.
MEANWHILE, SOCDEM PROFESSIONALS, CONTEMPLATING FACT
THAT PALME HAS LED PARTY TO SERIOUS SETBACKS IN TWO
SUCCESSIVE ELECTIONS, WILL BE CONSIDERING WHETHER HE IS
THE MAN TO LEAD THE PARTY IN A THIRD ELECTION. ORGANIZED
LABOR - REPRESENTING SWEDEN'S BREAD-AND-BUTTER SOCIALISTS-
IS THE SECTOR PALME HAS MOST TO WORRY ABOUT.
OLSEN

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